



alaska judicial council

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Press Release

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Judicial Nominees ***Anchorage Superior Court***

The Alaska Judicial Council met in Anchorage on November 16-18, 2022, to interview applicants for two positions on the Anchorage Superior Court. Following its meeting, the Alaska Judicial Council announced that **Kate Demarest, Laura Hartz, Kari L. McCrea, David A. Nesbett, Danée Pontious, and Christina Rankin** were nominated as the most qualified applicants to fill the judicial vacancies. The governor now has 45 days in which to make appointments from among these nominees.

The Judicial Council is required to nominate the most qualified applicants applying for a judicial vacancy. (The framers of our Constitution referred to this standard as the "best available timber.")

The Council is a citizens' commission created by the Alaska Constitution composed of three attorneys, three non-attorneys, and the Chief Justice of the Alaska Supreme Court. The Council completes an extensive investigation and evaluation of judicial applicants. The Council reviews each applicant's education, experience, bar discipline and credit records, participation in community activities, and other records. It asks members of the Alaska Bar to evaluate the applicants, encourages the public to submit comments, and interviews the applicants.

Nominees for the Anchorage Superior Court are:

Kate Demarest: Ms. Demarest has been an Alaska resident for 12½ years and has practiced law for 14 years. She graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School in 2008 and is currently a senior assistant attorney general in the Opinions, Appeals, and Ethics section at the Department of Law in Anchorage.

Laura Hartz: Ms. Hartz has been an Alaska resident for 14 years and has practiced law for 14½ years. She graduated from the University of Oregon School of Law in 2005 and is currently an assistant public advocate in Anchorage.

Kari L. McCrea: Judge McCrea has been an Alaska resident for 17 years and has practiced law for 21 years. She graduated from Mitchell Hamline School of Law in 2001 and is currently a district court judge in Anchorage.

David A. Nesbett: Judge Nesbett has been an Alaska resident for 50½ years and has practiced law for 22 years. He graduated from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law in 1998 and is currently a district court judge in Anchorage.

Danée Pontious: Ms. Pontious has been an Alaska resident for 18½ years and has practiced law for 18 years. She graduated from the University of Denver College of Law in 2004 and is currently the owner of her private practice in Anchorage.

Christina Rankin: Ms. Rankin has been an Alaska resident for 20 years and has practiced law for 20 years. She graduated from Syracuse University College of Law in 2002 and is currently in private practice in Anchorage.

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